A Message from the Parents Association

Dear MU Parents:

We hope you were able to participate in this year’s Family Weekend. Nearly 2,000 parents, grandparents, siblings and guardians visited the Marquette campus the weekend of October 3rd, sharing meals, attending university events, touring the ever-changing grounds, and of course, spending quality time as families. By renaming this event formerly known as “Parents Weekend,” it’s a pleasure to report that many proud grandparents were encouraged to take a sneak peek into their grandchildren’s collegiate lives. Make sure you and your family will be able to share the fun by saving the date for next year’s Family Weekend: October 1-3, 2004.

This edition of the Newsletter highlights the new Raynor Library, which is certainly a very visible example of Marquette’s commitment to “Build a Greater Marquette.” We’d like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the additional projects you may not be aware of that are doing just that.

For instance, Information Technology Services is in the process of launching a web-based system named CheckMarq. It will serve as a one-stop shopping solution for prospective students, current students, and faculty who can enjoy the convenience of getting things done online. Services will include access to:

- new student admissions inquiry and application processes;
- educational records and grades;
- financial aid information;
- online class registration;
- student accounts in the Bursar’s Office;
- residence life housing information; and
- a campus news portal.

The Marquette community will have full access to CheckMarq by fall 2004.

Marquette is committed to keeping current facilities in top-notch condition to enhance the Marquette experience for our children. Completed just days before students arrived on campus this fall, O’Conell Hall’s North Dining Room was transformed into a bright and airy setting with a new platform of cafeteria services. The North Dining Room is comprised of three cooking stations, including hot sandwiches, soup and salad and a vegan/vegetarian station. Together with the additional projects you may not be aware of that are doing just that.

New curriculum rooted in exploration

Last May, Marquette University adopted a new core curriculum in an effort to maintain the excellence already achieved while taking us to even greater levels. Your sons and daughters are being educated in the Jesuit tradition of cura personalis (care for the whole person), tending not only to their academic needs, but also their social and spiritual development.

“Educating undergraduate students is really a transformational process,” said Provost Dr. Madeline Wake, “for the students as well as the faculty.” In order for the educational experience to be truly transformational for these young people, the university must do more than simply give them the tools for a career or fill their heads with knowledge. “The process is more holistic,” she explained. Care for the whole person, in all of his or her complexity, must be provided. This is being accomplished through the new core curriculum in which students are expected to grasp a common understanding of nine knowledge areas encompassed within three broad concepts: Examining the World, Engaging the World, and Assessing the World. The North Dining Room is comprised of three cooking stations, including hot sandwiches, soup and salad and a vegan/vegetarian station. Together with the

Dr. Wake added to this, reinforcing that Marquette students are given something more than simply an education. “Our students—your children—are the heart and soul of this place and it is they who will make a difference in the world,” said Dr. Wake. These students are on a most incredible journey. As a Catholic, Jesuit school, Marquette offers a unique experience, guiding students in this quest. With these tools and the reinforcement of a strong academic community and dedicated faculty, Marquette students truly transform into men and women for others.
How are my child’s health needs being met?

"We take care of the whole student." It is through this partnership with the students that their living and learning at Marquette is a healthy experience. "We strive to facilitate positive living and a healthy academic community," she said.

Marquette University and in becoming the campus provider of choice.

Conveniently located in the southeast corner of the Health Science Complex, SHS is a fully functioning primary care health provider “We provide a convenient, confidential, appropriate place for your sons and daughters to seek health care information,” said Dana Mills, MPH, director of SHS, “and through the Center for Health Education and Prevention, we teach and encourage them how to maintain and improve their health. The students are our partners in this process. These are tomorrow’s leaders and we are helping them make appropriate choices.”

Donna Schoenfeld, director for the Center for Health Education and Promotion (a division of SHS) and assistant director for student health service, is here to reinforce this by meeting students’ individual clinical and preventive health needs in a compassionate, culturally sensitive and economical manner.

What is Student Health Services?

Student Health Service is committed to excellence, service and leadership in the provision of primary health care and health education at Marquette University and in becoming the campus provider of choice.

Parents caring for students

The Parents Association has been and will continue to be actively involved in SHS through its review, is a very positive step. “I can offer a parent’s perspective on health and education programs and introduce suggestions and concerns that other parents share with us during Family Weekend and events. You can learn how to get involved, serving on a committee, or volunteering, encouraged to get involved with the Parents Association by volunteering, serving on a committee, or participating in Parents Association events. You can learn how to get involved with the Parents Association by emailing marquette@marquette.edu or calling Kristin Bedwell at (414) 288-7697 or (800) 344-7544.  

For a complete review of SHS services, visit www.marquette.edu/shs.

Parents with specific concerns or suggestions are welcome to email: healthyeagle@marquette.edu •
The electronic resources will provide access to more than 18,000 print and online resources with innovative technology to create a facility that will serve the Marquette community far into the future.

Designed with the flexibility to adapt to new technologies as they emerge, the Raynor Library houses the programs, technology and tools that will provide Marquette students with the practical skills they will need as they enter their professional lives. Step inside and see:

- Easy online access to electronic information resources, including laptop computers available for use, and wireless Internet access.
- A teaching and learning center offering the latest technologies for research and study available for students and faculty. The hands-on approach of the Center for Teaching and Learning allows them to work independently, with on-site staff available for guidance.
- A conference center accommodates large groups and video conferencing, and is available as small-group study space.
- A comfortable and safe late-night study space provides access to essential library services in one secure area of the facility; serving Marquette’s large residential undergraduate population.
- Easy access to Marquette’s rare and unique research collections and archives.
- A café, with light food and beverage service and Internet access, gives students a convenient and relaxed place to break from studies.

In addition to the high-tech aspects, users have access to electronic work stations where they can browse the Internet or tap into a vast array of research databases. These electronic resources will provide access to more than 18,000 print and online periodicals and more than 4,000 e-books, all part of Marquette’s more than 1.6 million electronically indexed volumes. Also housed here are rare books, including an edition of St. Augustine’s City of God, printed on the Gutenberg press in 1473; and special collections, including a growing collection of J.R.R. Tolkien’s original manuscripts and working drafts for several of his most celebrated books. Other special collections include the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker collection and the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions records.

Actor Martin Sheen spoke at the dedication ceremony held Sept. 14, 2003 and received an honorary doctor of letters degree from Marquette. Sheen is an award-winning actor, director and producer. A Catholic, Sheen works tirelessly as a humanitarian and social activist. The largest building project of the Mugis Campaign, a fundraising initiative now entering its second year, the Raynor Library is the literal centerpiece of Marquette’s campus. It is named in honor of the memory and accomplishments of John P. Raynor, S.J., Marquette’s longest-serving university president from 1965 to 1990. It is he who said, “Libraries give students and faculty a contact with the great minds of the past, a contact that is at the heart of all learning.”

Completion of the library will allow Marquette students and faculty to preserve the past, transform the future, and fulfill the Jesuit ideals.

Parents Association support has been vital to the extraordinary success of Marquette’s library. Over the past few years, the Parents Fund provided the resources to construct a computer classroom that allowed students to get hands-on experience in locating and evaluating the incredible range of electronic resources now available. Parents Fund support also allowed us to test out wireless technology and purchase 15 laptop computers for use by our students. In just three academic years, the laptops circulated 15,000 times! These successes helped shape our planning for Raynor. To give you some idea about the impact of the new building, we only need to look at some comparative data. In September 2002 the entrance turnstile count was 40,000. The count in September 2003 was 100,000!

— Nicholas Burckel
Dean of Libraries, Marquette University

Parents Association • 3

Participate in the Marquette Experience

Through the generosity of the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Manresa Project at Marquette University is a $2 million grant-funded program focused on the "Theological Exploration of Vocation." Through retreats, leadership opportunities, a speaker series, workshops on discernment, experiences in ministry and academic courses, students engage issues of faith, service, morality and/or justice in order to discern their vocations: that is, how their gifts and talents can be used to meet and address the world’s hunger and needs. Discernment is at the heart of Ignatian spirituality: an invitation to deepen one’s life in Christ by asking the fundamental question, “What am I called by God to do with my life?” Elements of Manresa are designed to help undergraduate students, faculty, and staff at Marquette ask important questions about life, life’s journey and using one’s gifts and talents to meet the needs of the world.

One major component of the Manresa Project is the First Year Student Reading Program. The First Year Student Reading Program offers incoming freshmen an opportunity to begin mulling over answers to these provocative questions. Incoming freshmen read a pre-selected book over the summer and discuss the book during Orientation Week. This is more than a "summer reading project." It is an opportunity for students to understand what it means to be a part of the Marquette community. It opens their minds to the possibilities of their own vocations for the next four years and beyond.

This summer, all incoming freshmen will read Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott. "Ms. Lamott’s book was selected because of its emphasis on writing as public art and as a tool for personal reflection, a concept and practice encouraged throughout the Manresa Project.

As Marquette parents, you have the opportunity to participate in the Marquette experience through the Manresa Project’s First Year Student Reading Program. Consider reading Anne Lamott’s humorous, inspiring and valuable book that challenges us all to become writers and authors for ourselves. Keep a journal during your reading experience and plan on discussing your thoughts during Family Weekend, 2004. There will be a special Book Discussion session in place for parents who participated in this program. As you read the book, please feel free to email your thoughts and comments to Kristen Pawlowski, your Parents Association staff contact, at kristen.pawlowski@mu.edu. Your comments will be compiled and distributed at the Book Discussion (anonymously) and will help get the discussion going. Happy reading!"
Parents Fund Phonathon makes a difference

While the university is growing the Magis Campaign effort, Marquette also relies on the generosity of our parents, alumni, and friends to help bridge the gap between tuition revenue and university costs through growing the Marquette Fund. A special way parents can participate in the Marquette Fund is by making a gift to the Parents Fund. You may have recently received a phone call from a member of the student Phonathon calling team. This enthusiastic group worked diligently for a week in November, calling parents and explaining the importance of supporting the Parents Fund. They were met with positive reactions and generous support.

Parent support has been growing over the past two years. In 2001-2002, 838 parents had made a gift to the Parents Fund. In 2002-2003, that number increased by 400%, reaching 3,464 Parents Fund gifts. This year, we need the sustained support of our parents to continue this positive trend. “We really appreciate the support the parents have given,” said Elizabeth Dillhopf-Brown, director of the Marquette Fund. “Every gift makes a difference, no matter the size,” she added.

The Parents Fund gift is a vital component of the Marquette Fund, which is an integral source of financial resources for the university. “Tuition only covers 60 percent of the full cost of a Marquette University education,” explained Elizabeth, “One crucial way to make up the financial difference is the Marquette Fund, which provides much-needed support. It is such a lifeline for the university and helps to enhance the Marquette experience for all current students.”

Help us update our records. Is this newsletter getting to the correct address or correct names? Please call us regarding any changes at the phone number listed below, or e-mail maruparent@marquette.edu.

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Did you know…?

Marquette University’s student produced newspaper, The Marquette Tribune, is available on-line at www.marquettribune.org/tribuhome.htm

Keep up-to-date with the issues and news topics that make a difference in the lives of your students - The Marquette Tribune is produced twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

A Message from the Career Services Center…

The Marquette University Career Services Center is an outstanding resource for Marquette students and alumni. The Career Services Center holds on-campus interviews for companies and organizations interested in meeting with our students. We maintain a database of student and alumni resumes that can be accessed by potential employers.

We host two annual career fairs and post job descriptions for corporate and non-profit organizations throughout the year. We work one-on-one with students and alumni who need career advice and guidance. Our office is located in the lower level of Marquette Hall and contains a complete library of literature and resources for job seekers.

Parents are encouraged to collaborate with the Career Services Center to support Marquette students who are looking for internships/co-ops and full-time employment after graduation. If you work for, or are associated with, an organization that is interested in learning more about working with the Career Services Center and hiring Marquette students as interns, co-ops, and full-time employees, please contact Jason Eckert, assistant director of the Career Services Center, at (414) 288-5303 or jason.eckert@marquette.edu. Thank you for your support of your son or daughter’s career development, and please remember to remind your student to visit the Career Services Center and to make use of the outstanding resources. For more information on the Career Services Center, please visit www.marquette.edu/csc.

Make a difference

Parent Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to call the parents of incoming freshmen students to welcome them to the Marquette Family and to answer any questions they may have. You don’t have to live in the Milwaukee area to help - we need phone-callers all across the United States!

Please contact Kristen Pawlowski at (414) 288-7697 or e-mail her at kristen.pawlowski@marquette.edu to sign up. This small, personal gesture is a wonderful way to begin each family’s Marquette experience. You CAN make a difference!